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March 17, 2009

TO: Chairman Jerry Black
Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee

RE: HB483: Revising laws governing board of environmental review related to energy projects
HB529: Generally revise MEPA

Dear Chairman Black and Committee Members:

The Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) represents over 200 professionals who work for local economic development organizations across the state of Montana. We are professional "lead" economic developers, business specialists, government employees, and staff members of affiliated non-profit organizations which promote and foster economic development activities in Montana.

MEDA encourages your support of HB483 and HB52. Both of these bills would make the appeals process more manageable and tighten the time frame for appeals management. While MEDA believes everyone should have a voice and be able to object to a project, these bills provide reasonable parameters for that process.

Thank you for your support,

Jim Davison
President

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